

Message Text

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ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 ACDA-10 OMB-01

NEA-10 OES-06 NASA-02 EB-08 COME-00 /088 W

-----180126Z 097452 /73

P R 172230Z MAR 77

FM AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

TO USIA WASHDC PRIORITY

INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 9999

AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON

AMCONSUL PERTH

AMCONSUL MELBOURNE

AMCONSUL SYDNEY

UNCLAS SECTION 1 OF 2 CANBERRA 1832

USIAC

E.O. 11652: NA

SUBJ: WEEKLY HIGHLIGHTS

ATMOSPHERICS:

FIRST THE BAD NEWS. WASHINGTON TRILATERAL HOSTAGE EPISODE GARNERED MORE THAN ITS SHARE OF FRONT PAGE NEWS, MOSTLY STRAIGHT REPORTING WITH NUMEROUS PHOTOS. EDITORIAL REACTION SPARSE. THE GOOD NEWS: STORY DISAPPEARED ALMOST IMMEDIATELY AS THE POSSIBILITY OF A MASSACRE CEASED.

THE REAL EDITORIAL GRABBER HAS BEEN THE PRESIDENT'S BRIEF COMMENT ON DEMILITARIZATION IN THE INDIAN OCEAN. INITIAL REACTION WAS TO BLOW IT OUT OF PROPORTION, AS OPPOSITION SOON TOOK IT OVER AS POLITICAL FOOTBALL IN ATTEMPT TO EMBARRASS THE GOVERNMENT. PERHAPS THE MOST SUBSTANTIAL EDITORIAL REACTION WAS THE CONTINUING AUSTRALIAN PLAIN OF LACK OF PRE-CONSULTATION
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OR EVEN NOTIFICATION OF SUCH STATEMENTS. THE CONTROVERSY WAS SOON OVERSHADOWED BY FOREIGN MINISTER PEACOCK'S MAJOR FOREIGN POLICY SPEECH, WHICH ASSERTED AUSTRALIAN AGREEMENT WITH DEMILITARIZATION OBJECTIVE.

MR. PEACOCK'S SPEECH WAS WIDELY PRAISED FOR ITS EFFORTS TO FIND NEW DIRECTIONS FOR AUSTRALIA IN FOREIGN AFFAIRS, ESPECIALLY

ITS ATTENTION TO REGIONAL ALIGNMENTS. HIS UPCOMING VISIT TO U.S. IS WIDELY ANTICIPATED AND WILL GET MUCH COVERAGE. THERE IS GENERAL CURIOSITY AS TO HOW PARLIAMENTARY RESEARCHER DUNN'S TESTIMONY BEFORE FRASER SUB-COMMITTEE MAY AFFECT VISIT, AND THE POTENTIAL EFFECT ON U.S.-INDONESIAN RELATIONS.

PROGRAMMING:

THE AMERICAN FRONTIER EXHIBIT ENDED THIS WEEK IN MELBOURNE. WELL OVER 15,000 VIEWERS CAME TO THE EXHIBIT. WAS CONSIDERABLE SUCCESS ON MANY LEVELS, TARGET AUDIENCE MEMBERS AS WELL AS GENERAL PUBLIC. NASA FLYING OBSERVATORY RECEIVED EXCELLENT PRESS IN PERTH WHERE PRESS CONFERENCE WAS ARRANGED ON BOARD PLANE FOR LOCAL PRESS WITH FACILITATION OF USIS PERTH. MANY SEMINARS HELD WITH ASTRONOMICAL SOCIETIES AND UNIVERSITY PHYSICS DEPARTMENTS. MELBOURNE ALSO WEIGHED IN HEAVILY ON SUPPORT FOR THE NASA PROJECT WITH TV AND PRESS COVERAGE IN ALL MAJOR OUTLETS.

PROFESSOR DANIEL LERNER OF MIT ADDRESSED THREE MEETINGS IN PERTH, INCLUDING SPECIALLY CONVENED SEMINAR OF SOCIAL SCIENTISTS FROM PERTH'S THREE MAJOR INSTITUTIONS, ON THE SUBJECTS OF SOCIAL SCIENCE AND SOCIAL DEMOCRACY.

FOCUS USA #1 CONTINUES TO BRING IN GOOD RESPONSES AS FOCUS USA #2 GOES TO PRESS THIS WEEK. BRANCH PAOS MEET THIS THURSDAY AND FRIDAY IN CANBERRA TO REVIEW ACCOMPLISHMENTS AND COORDINATE PLANNING FOR UPCOMING MONTHS.

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THREE USIS AUSTRALIA LIBRARIANS MEETING THIS WEEK IN SINGAPORE FOR THE REGIONAL CONFERENCE. USIS CANBERRA HAS BEEN INVITED TO RUN DAILY PROGRAM OF VTRS ON AMERICAN MUSIC FOR THE THIRD NATIONAL CONFERENCE OF THE AUSTRALIAN SOCIETY OF MUSIC IN EDUCATION: MAY 8-13. 600 DELEGATES FROM ALL OVER COUNTRY EXPECTED TO ATTEND, ALONG WITH INVITED GUESTS FROM U.S. REQUEST FOR TAPES AND ANCILLARY MATERIAL ALREADY SENT TO AGENCY.

WHILE USIS MELBOURNE INVOLVED IN BIG LEAGUE EXHIBITION, USIS CANBERRA PARTICIPATED IN CANBERRA WEEK INTERNATIONAL ART EXHIBITION 7-14 MARCH. AMERICAN SEGMENT CONSISTED OF SMALL SELECTION CONTEMPORARY AMERICAN PRINTS BORROWED FROM BRANCH POSTS. LACK OF LEAD TIME HAD FORCED US TO FALL BACK ON OWN RESOURCES FOR THIS ONE, SO WERE GRATIFIED BY FAVORABLE COMMENTS ON AMERICAN CONTRIBUTION TO EXHIBITION, WHICH HAD REQUIRED MINIMUM STAFF EFFORT AND TIME. UNDERSTAND FROM EXHIBIT ORGANISERS, DEPT. OF CAPITAL TERRITORY AND CANBERRA WEEK COMMITTEE THAT OVER THOUSAND VIEWED EXHIBIT DURING WEEK.

USIS SYDNEY IS WORKING WITH FRITZ SCHMITZ OF USTS TOKYO TO SEND A FOUR-MAN ABC-TV TEAM TO USA DURING MAY '77 TO DO A TRAVEL DOCUMENTARY ON THE MISSISSIPPI RIVER CRUISE. IT IS PLANNED TO DO A 50-MINUTE DOCUMENTARY TO RECEIVE NATIONAL COVERAGE AT PRIME TIME TO AN ESTIMATED AUDIENCE OF 2 MILLION VIEWERS.

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P R 172230Z MAR 77
FM AMEMBASSY CANBERRA
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AMCONSUL PERTH
AMCONSUL MELBOURNER
AMCONSUL SYDNEY

UNCLAS SECTION 2 OF 2 CANBERRA 1832

USIAC

E.O. 11652: NA
SUBJ: WEEKLY HIGHLIGHTS

SYDNEY COOPERATED WITH THE COMMERCIAL DIVISION OF THE AMERICAN CONSULATE ON THE PRESS COVERAGE FOR THE OPENING OF THE VISIT USA '77 TRAVEL SHOW HELD IN SYDNEY AT THE US TRADE CENTER. ABC RADIO ORGANIZED 15-MINUTE INTERVIEW WITH FRITZ SCHMITZ (DIRECTOR OF THE PACIFIC REGION FIELD OFFICE OF USTS IN TOKYO) AND INTERVIEWER BILL DOWSETT OF "CITY EXTRA", ON MARCH 14, AND ALSO FILM COVERAGE ON ATN CHANNEL 7, 11 A.M. SHOW, OF THE VISIT USA DISPLAYS. SCHMITZ WILL ALSO VISIT MELBOURNE. MOUNT

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Message Attributes

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